

November 4, 2010

Caboose follow-up:

I went into the Post Office on my way into town at noon today and there ran into Jerry Palko, who rushed over to me and shook my hand and patted me on the back and thanked me and congratulated me on the acquisition of the caboose. "Robert, it's wonderful, you made us all feel proud, very proud. You could be elected Mayor right now if you wanted to. It's terrific." said he.

As I was getting into the elevator in City Hall, Bernadette and Lynette Lepre and Debby Mendicino were getting out. They were elated at the news of the arrival of the caboose. Bernadette: "It's wonderful, wonderful for the town. Congratulations." Similar remarks of encouragement from Lynette and Debby.

I went up to Ron Konosky's to see about some things I want to buy from him and as I was crossing Main Street, a young guy, twenty something, rolled down his car window and called out: "Great job on the caboose. Great job."

In the mail today was the following note from Richard Buberniak: "12-01-10 / Robert, thank you for all that you have done, I could not have found a more caring mentor for my son, I know you will help him to stay on 'track.' / Please take and use my donation [check for \$100 to the Historical Society] to ensure the Society's quest to bring home the D&H caboose will also stay on 'track.' / [signed] Richard Buberniak." What a wonderful note from Richard. I am deeply touched. With tears in my eyes I immediately phoned his brother John and his mother, Connie, and shared the letter. Tears all round. Connie: "We tried to do our best in raising our kids," said Connie. "And you succeeded beautifully, you and Jack raised some wonderful kids," said I. In talking about the caboose success of yesterday, Connie observed: "Robert, it's wonderful. You have made real for all of us dreams that we didn't even know that we had. I'm so happy for you."

“That’s unbelievable,” said John, “Me too, I have tears in my eyes,” he continued. I think what we’ll do is create a “Friends of Caboose 35964” and it will cost \$100 to become a friend. Richard’s \$100 will be the first membership in the Friends group. We’ll list their names on the webpage, maybe issue them a certificate.

In my conversation with John in California earlier, I learned that the caboose story has been picked up by media all across America! How wonderful!

John Buberniak has learned:

The wonderful article on the caboose’s arrival that was in the *Scranton Times* on November 30 was picked up by *Railway Preservation News*.

The Channel 16 story on the caboose was picked up by the Fox network in Cleveland, Seattle, and Chicago.

The announcer who provided the lead-in on the caboose story on Channel 16 said: “Coming up, we’ll learn how a caboose from the Delaware and Hudson Railroad will reshape the history of Carbondale.”

Such a wonderful event for Carbondale! I am thrilled!